

to François Etienne Cugnet, Pierre François Taschereau, Olivier de Vezain, Jacques Simonet, and Ignace Gamelin for 6,000 livres, with no terms, so long as they paid 300 livres a year.

The partners above named were called Cugnet and Cie., or "La Compagnie des Forges," and the King of France, now Louis XV, by an order-in-council dated April 22d, 1737, empowered them to erect iron works and for this purpose advanced them 100,000 livres and claimed no rents or dues. They accordingly in that year built a blast furnace, and on the 12th of September obtained a concession of some more land, called the *fief* St. Etienne, from M. Hocquart, who was Intendant at that time. In two years' time, a French artisan was procured who improved the works and methods of working; but it was all in vain, a want of capital being said to have been the cause of failure. The Company could not carry on the works, but had to give them up, and, on the 1st of May, 1743, the Crown took possession, whereon they were worked on the King's account and in his name.

"Skilled workmen were sent out from France, who rebuilt, in part at least, the blast-furnace as it now stands, and erected a Walloon hearth which is still in use for refining."* Extensions and additions were made, and the place in six years' time, had assumed very considerable proportions, as the following account will show.

On August 3d, 1749, Professor Peter Kalm, Professor of Economy in the University of Abo in Swedish Finland, and member of the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences, stopped at Three Rivers in his travels through the country, for the special purpose of seeing the iron-works. He thus describes his visit:†

"Whilst my company was resting, I went on horseback to view the iron-work. The country which I passed through was pretty high, sandy and generally flat. I saw neither stones nor mountains here. The iron-work, which is the only one in this country, lies three miles to the west of Trois Rivières. Here are two great forges, besides two lesser ones to each of the great ones and under the same roof with them. The bellows were made of wood, and everything else, as it is in Swedish forges. The melting-ovens stand close to the forges and are the same as ours. The ore is got two French miles and a half from the iron-works and is carried thither on sledges. It is a kind of moor-ore, which lies in veins within six

* Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, in Swank's *Iron in all Ages*, 1884.

† *Travels into North America*, by Peter Kalm, London, 1771—vol. iii, p. 87.